

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY! In 1970, Marian McQuade initiated a campaign to establish a day to honor grandparents. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a national proclamation, declaring the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day.

GAZEBOEXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • SEPTEMBER 2015

ARCHITECTS VIE FOR THEATRE

Three Chicago firms are in the running for the Town Theatre renovation/reconstruction project.

Selected from a field of more than a dozen firms, the three will be winnowed to one through extensive interviews conducted by the Redevelopment Commission in September.

The candidates bring with them a wealth of experience constructing unique spaces for the arts:

MORRIS ARCHITECTS PLANNERS: This company specializes in designing performing arts facilities, including the new Steppenwolf Theatre and the Lookingglass Theatre, which is constructed within an existing water pumping station.

BAUER LATOZA STUDIO: These architects restored the New Regal Theatre and provided project management oversight on the Oriental Theatre in Chicago.

WHEELER-KEARNS: Clean lines and modern design that frame residential, commercial and institutional ventures, this firm's client list includes the Beverly Arts Center, Old Town School of Folk Music and the Chicago Children's Theatre.

"The architects must explain how they can transform our theatre into what we need it to be," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "We know we're running tight for time. Critical issues need to be resolved before the snow flies." ❄️

WHAT'S NEXT?

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said commission members have already earmarked questions that will be critical to the process.

Each architect is being supplied with three general questions prior to their appearance for one-hour interviews the evening of Sept. 9.

"We want this to be a dialogue, a place where we can begin to develop a collaborative relationship with the firm we will be working with for the next 15 months," Petro said.

QUESTIONS INCLUDE ...

1. What are the challenges, issues, considerations or risk factors that you foresee with this project?
2. What design features could be important to lower long-term operational costs?
3. How will you translate your experience on larger, other-period projects to the post-World War II Town Theatre?

WORKING TIMELINE ...

Once a theatre architect is selected, the firm will be charged with creating a plan to stabilize the roof for winter. The architects will then work with the Redevelopment Commission to establish a timeline for completion.



SIDEWALK PROGRAM

If your sidewalk has seen better days but replacing the heaving and deteriorating concrete is not in your budget, the town can help. Information is included in this month's water bill.



REGIONAL TRAIL SURVEY

Please help the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission by completing a survey to gauge your user habits on our regional trails, open spaces and waterways. This survey is part of NIRPC's Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan, which is scheduled for release in early 2016.

DEADLINE: October 1

SURVEY: Visit www.nirpc.org.



... TOWN TICKER ...

Congratulations to **Prompt Ambulance** for reaching its one millionth ambulance trip! ... Downtown landmark **Niko's Restaurant** has reopened under the watchful eye of Anthony Fenyes, who recently owned **Anthony's Cafe**. ... This just in: **Highland Wrestling Club** sign-ups for boys and girls age 4-18 from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 10-11 at Highland Middle School. **INFO:** highland.wrestling@yahoo.com.

PEOPLES TO BUILD NEW BANK ON FORMER MCDONALD'S SITE

Peoples Bank is looking to relocate its Highland branch to a higher-visibility location on Ridge Road near Cline Avenue.

The Town Council gave preliminary approval in August to a tax abatement that will pave the way for an investment by Peoples Bank of up to \$2 million in new construction on the site of the former McDonald's – between Fannie May and Arby's.

The new bank will conform with the design

guidelines established by the Redevelopment Commission, which includes the use of natural materials along with compatible lighting and landscape.

The site, vacant since 2008, had been eyed by a number of prospective buyers. Those offers were rejected because of noncompetitive restrictions established by McDonald's.

Peoples Bank is headquartered in Munster and has 13 branches in Lake and Porter counties.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Town Council will hold a public hearing and consider final approval of a request for tax abatement at its regular meeting **SEPT. 14**. The public hearing is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Peoples Bank is expected to retain the five employees at its 9030 Cline Ave. branch and add two more positions to staff the new location.

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Support our local businesses and musicians at the weekly street market featuring fresh produce, artisanal goods as well as gourmet foods.

ENTERTAINMENT:

Sept. 12: Scott Larson

Sept. 19: Tony Cortina

Sept. 26: A. Trio

Oct. 3: The Keysters

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays

WHERE: Main Square Park

VENDOR FEES: \$21.40 weekly. \$5.35 for electric. Tables, chairs and cords are not provided.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at highlandparks.org.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about the latest trends in crime at this month's crime watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 9**

WHERE: Highland Library

RESERVATIONS: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S 45TH STREET PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

Plantings, pavers and public art has replaced the broken glass and weeds that once populated the corner of 45th Avenue and Fifth Street.

Three years in the making, the passive green space is the Highland Community Foundation's first capital project.

"We are grateful to everyone who has supported this project," Foundation Executive Director Richard Underkoffler said. "We wanted a high visibility project to be our first and are extremely pleased with the results."

The Park Board has agreed to assume responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the park after it is dedicated in October.

Even before the project was complete, Underkoffler said residents began finding their way to the park, studying the inscribed pavers, which detail major contributors and enjoying the sculpture, which is dedicated to the memory of Ashley Ritz, who was killed at the nearby

intersection days before she was scheduled to begin her senior year at Highland High School.

"This was a great first project," he said. "We are excited to begin another."

On the Community Foundation's to-do list are fund-raising efforts to:

- ✓ Build the HCF endowment fund to provide ongoing support for worthy projects.
- ✓ Support the Town Theatre Operations Fund.
- ✓ Restore the tree canopy throughout town to reduce inflow and infiltration in the sewers and filter contaminants before they flow into the Little Calumet River.
- ✓ Create a public art project.
- ✓ Construct a bike trail loop near the rookery.

CELEBRATION & DEDICATION: The community is invited at 10 a.m. Oct. 24 for the dedication of the 45th Street Landscape Improvement project.

TOWNS GEAR UP FOR FESTIVAL OF TRAIL

Griffith and Highland are teaming up for another Festival of the Trail Oct. 10.

Celebrate autumn with the arts and the Erie-Lackawanna Trail, the local super highway for bikers, roller-bladers, walkers and runners.

Festival of the Trail Coordinator Dawn Diamantopolos said Highland will feature the offerings of local artists and musicians, family-friendly literary readings and students of the Jane Berland dance studio at the trail underneath Ridge Road.

"We invite everyone to enjoy a day with the arts in Highland," she said. "We are partnering with Highland Athletic Boosters, which will sell pumpkins and mums at the fest."

Shawn Graham said Griffith will showcase vendors, local eateries and giveaways at the south side of 45th Street at the trail. Organizers hope festival-goers will use the trail to visit both venues. 🐦

DATES TO REMEMBER ...

Vendors, particularly those who have a relationship with the arts, are encouraged to take part in this year's Festival of the Trail. Organizers are committed to capitalizing on opportunities to showcase the visual and performing arts throughout town.

SEPT. 12: Deadline for business discount coupons and vendor applications.

OCT. 1: Highland Main Street and festival volunteers will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

OCT. 10: The Festival of the Trail will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

INFO: Call Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email CPetro@highland.in.gov.





Harvest of Quilts

Jenny O'Donnell never considered herself particularly proficient as a seamstress, never fancied a pastime that transformed cloth into clothes.

What the Highland mother of five did discover was a love of quilting.

For the last 35 years, quilts fashioned by O'Donnell from scraps of fabric in every color of the rainbow — many in her favorite double-Irish chain design — have kept women and children throughout the region safe and warm.

"I just decided to take a class in Crown Point and ended up joining the Heritage Quilters," she said. "Over the years, I have been able to make hundreds of quilts and have enjoyed every minute."

In addition to hand-quilting her designs after they have been pieced together on a sewing machine, O'Donnell helps put together quilt kits for others.

"My children and grandchildren all have quilts I've made," she said. "Today, I spend most of my time making quilts for places like Haven House, St. Francis Home and St. Monica's. My favorite quilts are the ones I make for Nazareth House in East Chicago because those quilts are for the children."

BIENNIAL QUILT SHOW XIV

Join the Heritage Quilters for a biennial quilt show featuring new quilts, door prizes, a merchant mall, boutique and a chance to win the raffle quilt.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, **OCT. 2** and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, **OCT. 3**

WHERE: First United Methodist Church of Crown Point, 352 S. Main St., Crown Point

ADMISSION: \$5 adults, \$1 children ages 6-12, free for kids under 5.

INFO: Call Pat Schultz at (219) 775-6559.

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

Hunt for gently-used gems and enjoy homemade goodies at the rummage, pierogi and bake sale, hosted by St. James Women's Guild. Clothes are \$2 a bag on Saturday!

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, **SEPT. 25** and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, **SEPT. 26**

WHERE: St. James Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave.

DONATION: Donations may be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, **SEPT. 23** and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, **SEPT. 24**. No large furniture items, please.

INFO: Call Helen at (219) 924-5783 or Rosie at (219) 227-9383.

CARDIOMYOPATHY WALK

The town is invited to take part in a family walk/fun day to benefit children with serious heart muscle disease. Highland resident Mandy Knight, an ambassador to the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, is in charge of the event. All proceeds benefit the foundation.

WHEN: 11 a.m. **SEPTEMBER 13**.

Registration begins at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

INFO: Contact Mandy Knight at (219) 293-6125 or email bighearts15@gmail.com.

NEED A NEW WORKOUT?

Highland Parks & Recreation is rolling out new fitness programs in September at Lincoln Community Center.

WALK LIVE CARDIO FITNESS

WHEN: 7 p.m. Wednesdays, **SEPT. 23-OCT. 14**

FREE DEMO: 7 p.m. Wednesday, **SEPT. 16**

FEE: \$22 residents/\$24 nonresidents

MORNING WEIGHTED WORKOUT

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. Fridays, **SEPT. 25-OCT. 16**

FEE: \$11 residents/\$12 nonresidents

MORNING YOGA

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, **SEPT. 22 - OCT. 15**

FEE: \$14 residents/\$15.50 nonresidents

INFO: For more information, please visit highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET CAR CRUISE ROLLS INTO TOWN OCTOBER 3

Since Highland Main Street's Car Cruise was rescheduled, Chairman Mario DeGeorge has been praying for sunny weather.

After being postponed twice because of torrential rains in May, weather data favors October as one of the town's drier months.

"We are inviting all of our local car enthusiasts to keep their cars out just a few more weeks to participate in the

Highland Car Cruise," DeGeorge said. "We had 245 cars last year and are hoping this year's turnout will be even better."

Those participating in this year's cruise should line up along Highway Avenue beginning at 11 a.m. between Delaware and Fifth streets.

There is no charge to register your vehicle. Registration will be conducted on-site.

CALLING ALL CAR BUFFS!

If you have a classic car or antique hot rod, join us for the Highland Main Street Car Cruise in downtown Highland. Drivers are encouraged to enter Highway Avenue from the east for easy lineup.

WHEN: noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, **OCT. 3**

WHERE: Downtown Highland

INFO: Call Car Cruise Chairman Mario DeGeorge at (708) 250-1388.

CANVAS PAINT NIGHT

Paint your own 16 x 20 Cubs or Sox logo. No experience is required. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages included.

WHEN: 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, **SEPT. 16**

FEE: \$25 residents/\$30 nonresidents

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INTRO TO PARTY BRIDGE

For those interested in learning the game of Bridge. No supplies or previous experience necessary. Come as you are!

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, **SEPT. 8 - OCT. 13**

FEE: \$36 residents/\$40 nonresidents

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

BEGINNING GUITAR FOR KIDS

Kids age 6-12 will learn the parts of the guitar, notes, tablature, chords, fun songs and more.

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Mondays, **SEPT. 21 - OCT. 26**

FEE: \$63 residents/\$68 nonresidents

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

KIDDIE CUPCAKE DECORATING

Kids age 10-15 will learn how to decorate cupcakes using a variety of basic decorating techniques from Cathy of Cookielicious Bakery. Each student will take home a half-dozen decorated cupcakes. Supplies included.

WHEN: 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, **SEPT. 22**

FEE: \$15 residents/\$18 nonresidents

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

COUTURE COOKIE DECORATING

Cathy from Cookielicious Bakery will teach participants ages 16 and older how to create sugar cookie treats. Leave with a half-dozen fabulously decorated cookies.

WHEN: 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, **SEPT. 22**

FEE: \$18 residents/\$22 nonresidents

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES

Certified instructor Amy Dunlap from Ruff Start Dog Training will teach you commands for your pooch such as loose leash walking, sit, stay, come, down, no and okay.

BASIC: 6 p.m. Mondays, **SEPT. 14 - Oct. 26**

FEE: \$150 residents/\$160 nonresidents

ADVANCED: 6 p.m. Tuesdays, **SEPT. 15 - Oct. 27**

FEE: \$180 residents/\$190 nonresidents

PUPPIES: 6 p.m. Thursdays, **SEPT. 17 - Oct. 29**

FEE: \$150 residents/\$160 nonresidents

WHERE: Homestead Park west

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about these and other Parks & Recreation programs, please visit highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

Highland's 4th annual ... OKTOBERFEST

The Highland Community Foundation's 4th Oktoberfest

— from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 1 — will feature a raffle, auction, live entertainment, craft beers, wines and all of the fixings for a true Munich-style feast. Donations help fund landscape features at our new green space at the corner of 5th and 45th streets.

OCTOBER 1

*Lincoln Center
Banquet Hall*

**THE FOOD ...**

Sample traditional German and Bavarian fare including Wiener Schnitzel, German potato salad, Sauerbraten, Spaetzel, Bratwurst, hot pretzels with mustard and delicious apple strudel.

THE DRINKS ...

Craft beer and wine will round out the evening.

THE MUSIC ...

The night's entertainment will feature the authentic Die Musikmeisters German Band.

THE INFO ...

Tickets are \$85 per person or \$150 couple (\$50 per ticket is tax deductible). To purchase tickets, donate a raffle item, select a donor recognition opportunity or acquire an engraved brick paver installation at the Memorial Plaza, call Rich at (312) 550-4478 or email runderkofler76@comcast.net.

